



Cameroon Mission Work

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*At the Service of Christ
and of His Calling,*

The Bassay Family

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NOUVELLE DU CAMEROUN

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He keeps on doing great things in the life of His children! Our God is on the throne and his loving-kindness is renewed every morning, even when we are unfaithful, He is faithful for He cannot deny himself" 2 Tim 2:13. Camwork has been enjoying a wonderful partnership with its sponsors and its work has been increasingly successful: The YEP-VBS, the visit of Cloverdale elders (Chris and Jerry), two soul saving missions, Seminars, the conversion of souls, the first edition of the Kerusso Experience in Cameroon, the pulpit service, the refurbishing of a well for the community, the sharing of clothes and other household items, the writing of curricula, the ladies' activities and the launching of a radio program, are some of the major happenings since our last newsletter.

Greetings and blessings from Cameroon. The Bassays and the Cameroon Mission Work crew join the international body of believers in Christ to intercede against this ongoing devastating COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful that our God has been taking good care of us and has not allowed the social distancing to prevent us from living in closer union. Our ministry work is affected but not weakened. In this newsletter, we will take you back from the pre-COVID till now and we will share some post-COVID perspectives.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (YEP) VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Camwork YEP/VBS started on June 17, 2019 and ended July 31. It is a program for kids aged 5 to 15 organized in collaboration with the Bonaberi Church of Christ and Reach Out Cameroon (NGO) to help prevent children and young adults from getting into delinquent activities during summer holidays by keeping them busy with extracurricular and fun Bible activities. There were 280 participants in two locations and fifteen facilitators with Linda as the coordinator. According to last years feedback, that number was expected to be doubled or more this year. Unfortunately things will not be the same due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still making plans on how to work with some kids from Home.

CHRIS AND JERRY'S VISIT

CRV is the acronym that attempts to represent how Camwork and Cloverdale understand its partnership: (1) a Committee of Cameroonians able to have an eye on what the missionary family is doing, (2) Reporting of actions in the mission field and (3) Visiting of the missionary family.

It is in agreement with the latter that the Okai family visited Cameroon in June 2019. Four months later, brothers Chris Lowe and Jerry Myhan were in Cameroon and spent close to two weeks with the Bassays, under the same roof.

That was another opportunity to remind the missionary family that they are not alone and what they are doing is supported and prayed for.

In the course of their stay, Brothers Chris and Jerry actively took part in the life of the church in Bonaberi, teaching and preaching and visiting with some church families. They were also involved in Camwork activities such as seminars in finances, health, marriage enrichment, etc. They met and fellowshiped with the



Louis, Linda, Chris, Jerry and the Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee, and explored other possibilities of improving the missions of Camwork.

MISSIONS

Louis has been chosen by the body of preachers in French Cameroon to coordinate their evangelism program for the next two years. This soul saving initiative, which is in agreement with the mission of Camwork, is called VERS (TOWARD in English and stands for Vision des Evangélistes francophones pour la Restauration et le Salut des âmes.

The first outing was at Anguissa with 10 participants (November 14-17, 2019) and the second in Santchou with 14 participants and 9 students from the



Soul Saving Team at Santchou

Bear Valley Bible Institute in Mbanga (January 16-19, 2020). The Lord blessed both missions with 1 soul and 3 souls respectively.

Camwork input goes beyond Louis' coordination to providing transport fare to some evangelists and a partial funding of feeding and/or sleeping facilities. The

Camwork truck is also a great help during the mission for the transportation of goods and brethren.

THE KERUSSO EXPERIENCE

The Kerusso Experience is a Harding University program in Searcy Arkansas, USA, led by Dr Devin Swindle and Dr Phil Thompson. With their permission and support, Louis Bassay under Cameroon Mission Work reproduced its first edition in Cameroon last year, December 21 to 28, 2019.

It is a weeklong preacher training camp for 15 to 19 years old boys learning Bible study methods, sermon preparation and delivery from seasoned preachers. Kerusso Cameroon added Song Leading and interpretation (French and English) to meet the Cameroon church's needs. The main goal is that our teen boys learn to serve the LORD in a lifetime of ministry.



Louis, Linda and the 9 Kerusso boys

9 students from 7 congregations were retained. The leadership team was made up of 6 teachers and two ladies, Linda inclusive. Each congregation paid the transport fare and feeding fee of its students. The main financing came from Camwork budget, the Harding University Center for Preaching and a few friends and relatives. We are grateful. Thanks for your prayers and your partnership in our quest for new generation of kingdom servants.

Our next edition, initially scheduled for June has been postponed to December 19-26, 2020. We intend to take 18 students this time and we pray parents/congregations whose children will not be retained will not be offended as it was the case last December. Sadly, we can only retain a few students based on our lodging and transportation facilities. We are also hopeful to catch the attention of those who will be willing to partner with us in this.

CONVERSIONS

The word is being preached daily, formally or informally and the Lord has been adding to the church those who are being saved. The Bonaberi congregation

recorded 9 baptisms in 2019 and 2 this far in 2020.

In the picture below, *Forning Francisca* is being immersed. This came with extra joy because she is the



Francisca, February 11, 2020

first close neighbor to the church building to be converted. That may speak that the church is accepted in her neighborhood.

LIBRARY AND PLAYROOM

Thankful for the new books from Cloverdale, from Louise Clement and Bren White and from the brethren at Laurel and White Oak. We are grateful to Jerry and Sue Bunn for moving some of these books from Searcy to Laurel in Maryland where they were shipped. The Library also got some books from the Hostetters and we are thankful.



Shipped stuff



Books from the Hostetters

However, the activities of both the library and the playroom have been on hold due to the COVID pandemic since the Bassays are under the same roof. But measures are being taken so that readers can sign out books to read in their homes.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Regardless of the grand societal needs such as food, health, education and clothes, water remains a ma-



Refurbishing the well



ajor concern in many communities. In February Camwork was blessed to start the refurbishing of the water well in the Bonaberi church yard to serve the community. Brother Jay Walls of the Cloverdale mission committee had some money from someone willing to participate in mission and that was used for this project. With some more funding the work will be completed though the well is currently used.



Preparing clothes for distribution

Clothes from Laurel under Cameroon Connection Projects were also shared to the churches and the community.

THE LADIES'S ACTIVITIES

On October 25-27, 2019 the Bonaberi Church hosted the Francophone ladies' seminar for the ladies of the churches of Christ in the French speaking part of the country. 80 ladies attended. Linda talked on intentional parenting. She also taught the ladies some crafts (how to make animals and flowers) for Sunday school.

Linda also attended the Bi-annual Ladies' seminar, that took place in Nkoabang-Yaounde on January 30 -February 2, 2020. She spoke on the topic *Creating a Special Relationship with God*. During this seminar, three souls were added to the Lord's Church in Nkoabang.

Before the COVID-19 confinement era, Linda was teaching the 1 to 3 years old Bible class on Sundays, ladies' class on Wednesdays treating the book *Spiritual Mothering* by Susan Hunt. They also did some crafts once a month making sanitary pads (Thanks to Susan Harrington) and jewelries.



Making of jewelries and sanitary pads

With the confinement, she has been working with some ladies of the church in Cameroon in an Online Book Club. In this club they choose an online Christian book, assign numbers of pages to be read over a specific period time, then have a discussion on the book. They all share what they have learned and how that would ameliorate their lives as Christian women. Sometimes they organize and coordinate online fasting programs through WhatsApp. From time to time Camwork will offer communication credit to some women in order to allow them stay connected to the Internet

Also, she is working on an infant curriculum suitable for the Cameroon context. She hopes to be done with it soon.

CHALLENGES AND THE COVID-19 ERA

It is on March 18, 2020 that Cameroon shut down its borders and proceeded to many structural adjustments in alignment with the entire planet in the fight against the ongoing pandemic.

Some of the questions that were asked with the outbreak of Small pox, Ebola, HIV AIDS and other huge pandemics are back to the table with the appearance of the Coronavirus disease. One of these questions is: is this enigmatic predicament a challenge to science or a curse to humanity?

Whatever be the answer, Christians all over the world know that *the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are saved, besides, all things work for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose.*

Camwork took this statement from Paul very seriously and has adjusted things to fit the understanding of the time. Activities such as seminars, youth forum, church planting/strengthening, YEP/VBS, has either been cancelled or postponed. Even the Camwork library and playroom has been closed for the meantime.

The Church in Bonaberi has broken down its worship into three services. The 8am and the 11am wor-



ship are in English and the 9:30 am worship is in French. This is in agreement with government restriction of no more than 50 persons per gathering.

Still, in adapting to the new situation, Camwork has been involved in the following activities:

1. Sharing of hand sanitizers to some 25 church families and friends.

2. Financial help for feeding and health to families affected by either the ongoing crisis in Cameroon or the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Online lectures and gatherings. Some participants are provided with airtime credits to allow them stay connected to the Internet.

4. Regardless of the curriculum for infant Linda is working on, Louis and Linda are working indoors on another curriculum for children close to the age of baptism.

5. The designing of the Camwork website is also going on as **Camwork.org** to hopefully give its activities a worldwide impact. It will also contain many of our past, current and future activities including pictures, videos and details that will no longer be put in a report like this.

6. The radio program. This has been in the plan of work as proposed by Louis and Linda but no time could have been as timely as this. Louis, Linda and Gerald are on air every Sunday since April 5, 2020 on Radio Di-



bombari. It is a community radio that covers a radius of about 200 miles. Our program is entitled "What the Bible Says". Our aim is to reach the community with the word of God. The 90 minute program has 30 minutes of presentation and 1 hour of discussion, praying, intercession and interaction with the public. Meanwhile, a live video is done on Linda's Facebook page for the Internet audience outside the range or the country. The feedback is positive and we give God the glory. Our only problem has been power outages because the radio station does not have a backup generator. We have had two black-

outs thus far. We are grateful our Cloverdale family is currently addressing that need.

HELPING THE IDP (INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS)

The political tension in the English-speaking part of the country is still affecting the economy negatively. The COVID-19 has made things worst. Unfortunately, Louis and the other members of the Board of Trustees lastly met on January 25. Ever then, no relief fund has been received for our Christian brethren living in precarious conditions. However, Camwork within the limitation of its current budget, has been able to assist a few persons here and there with medication, food, hand sanitizer, etc. The Bonaberi Church has also been helping in that same line.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Louis officiated the wedding of one of the girls living in their home last November. Her name is Thelma, now happily living with her husband Robert and expecting their first child in November :)

2. Louis and Linda participated in the February Seminar (February 9-14) led by the American missionary Jim Corner and interpreted for Richard and Lori Sutton from Boise, ID



3. The Bassay's and the Bonaberi church mourned the passing away of brother Kum Mathias, tragically killed in a car accident on April 21. He was among those who recruited Louis to Bonaberi in 2001. May his soul rest in peace.

4. Louis and Linda have been invited to travel to congregations to help resolve issues that needed some counseling expertise and external input. The Lord has been doing the talking for His glory.

5. Camwork still sends Raoul Kadadoum to Bomono every week to minister to this small church in Louis' home village.

6. Louis and Linda took part in a Marriage Enrichment seminar organized by the Buea-Bokoko church

of Christ, the congregation of one of the members of the Camwork Advisory Committee, elder Christopher Omam.

7. Camwork took part in a Moungo Zone evangelism campaign, March 6-8, 2020. This was a gathering of 8 to 10 churches in Louis' home county.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND GRATITUDE

Just as said previously, words will never translate the extent of our heart-felt gratitude. All we can do is to keep thanking you. You are the reason we are on the mission field and are doing great. There are times we do not feel like making any extra request no matter the circumstances for fear of sounding ungrateful, yet you have a way of figuring out our needs and providing for them :)

THE BASSAY AS A FAMILY

The Lord has been faithful and beyond. Our health has been enjoying God's mercy and every medication has been effective. It is said you cannot have a schedule in Africa. This is true with people showing up in our home unannounced even in this COVID-19 era. Yet God is with us, giving the wisdom to deal with things like these in a godly way.

We also acknowledge the letters we have been receiving and regular correspondence with some of our sponsors and our Cloverdale family, especially the Whites, the Walls, the Okais, the Lowes, The Myhans, the Daggetts, some of the Sunday school classes and the Monday Night For The Master. Thanks once more for the medications and the gracious gifts you sent last time and for the daily concern and prayers, increasingly so since the outbreak of the COVID-19

The Bassays have also been spending some of their confinement time in the small family farm cultivating pineapples, plantains, cassava, corn, pea-nuts, etc. Louis calls that exercise and Linda calls it necessity.



Finally, brothers and sisters, let brotherly love continue. May God bless us all in Christ as we fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Shalom!